

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An instrument for implanting a cervical intervertebral prosthesis including two anchoring plates and a prosthesis core arranged between them, the instrument comprising a handle, a stem, and a head part which is arranged at an end of the instrument remote from the handle and whose dimensions are chosen such that the head part can be inserted into an implantation space that has been created between adjacent vertebral bodies for receiving the intervertebral prosthesis, the head part comprising an excavating element configured for creating a recess in a cranial-caudal direction in the adjacent vertebral bodies and an actuating device provided for the excavating element which is movable between a rest position, in which the ~~actuating device~~ excavating element is retracted in the head part, and a working position, in which the ~~actuating device~~ excavating element protrudes from the head part transversely with respect to the stem, wherein the excavating element comprises pairs of cutting fins which are arranged opposite one another, the cutting fins of each pair having different heights relative to one another.

24. (Previously Presented) The instrument as claimed in claim 23, wherein the excavating element is a cutter disk.

25. (Previously Presented) The instrument as claimed in claim 24, wherein the cutter disk has at least one pair of cutting fins arranged in an offset manner about its circumference.

26-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The instrument as claimed in claim 23, 24~~[[,]]~~ or 25, 26, 28 ~~or~~ 29, wherein the excavating element is longitudinally movable along a guide.

33. (Currently Amended) The instrument as claimed in claim 23, 24~~[[,]]~~ or 25, 26, 28 ~~or~~ 29, wherein the ~~actuating element~~ actuating device comprises a handle and a transmission shaft operated by the handle.

34. (Currently Amended) The instrument as claimed in claim 23, 24[[,]] or ~~25, 26, 28 or~~
29, wherein the ~~actuating element~~ actuating device has a rotary drive coupling.

35-45. (Canceled)